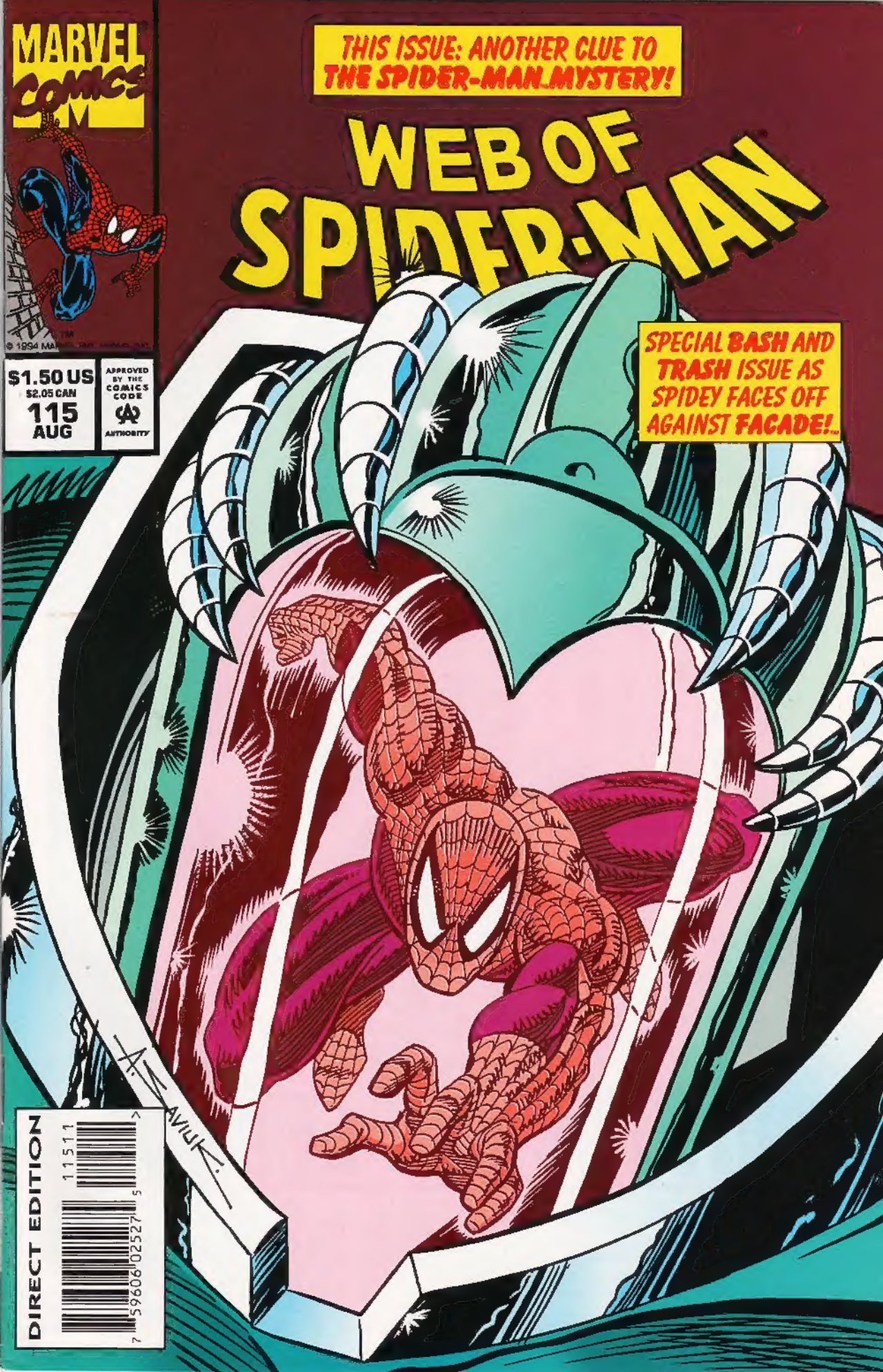
MARVEL COMICS
THIS ISSUE: ANOTHER CLUE TO THE SPIDER-MAN MYSTERY!
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
SPECIAL BASH AND TRASH ISSUE AS SPIDEY FACES OFF AGAINST FACADE!
$1.50 US
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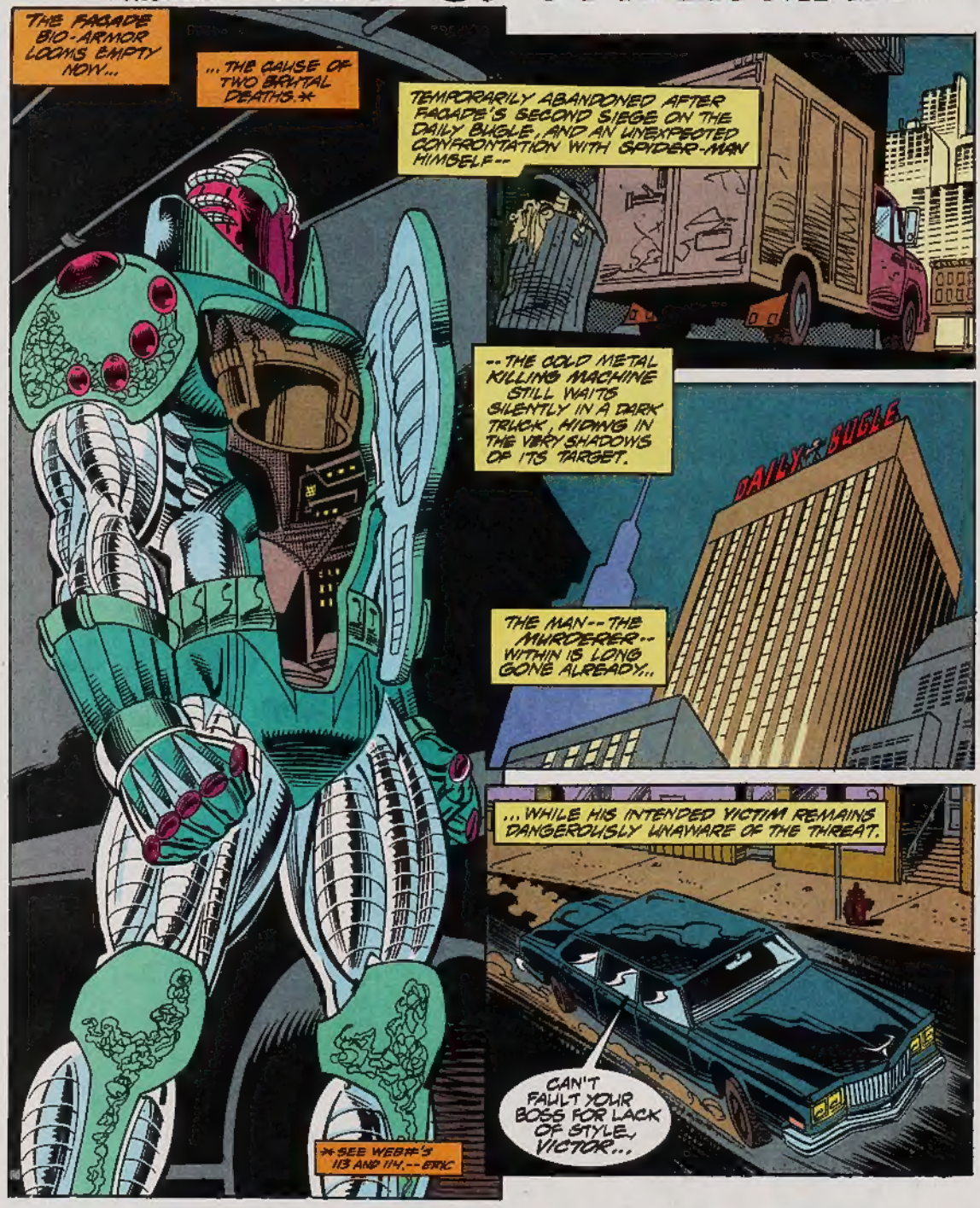
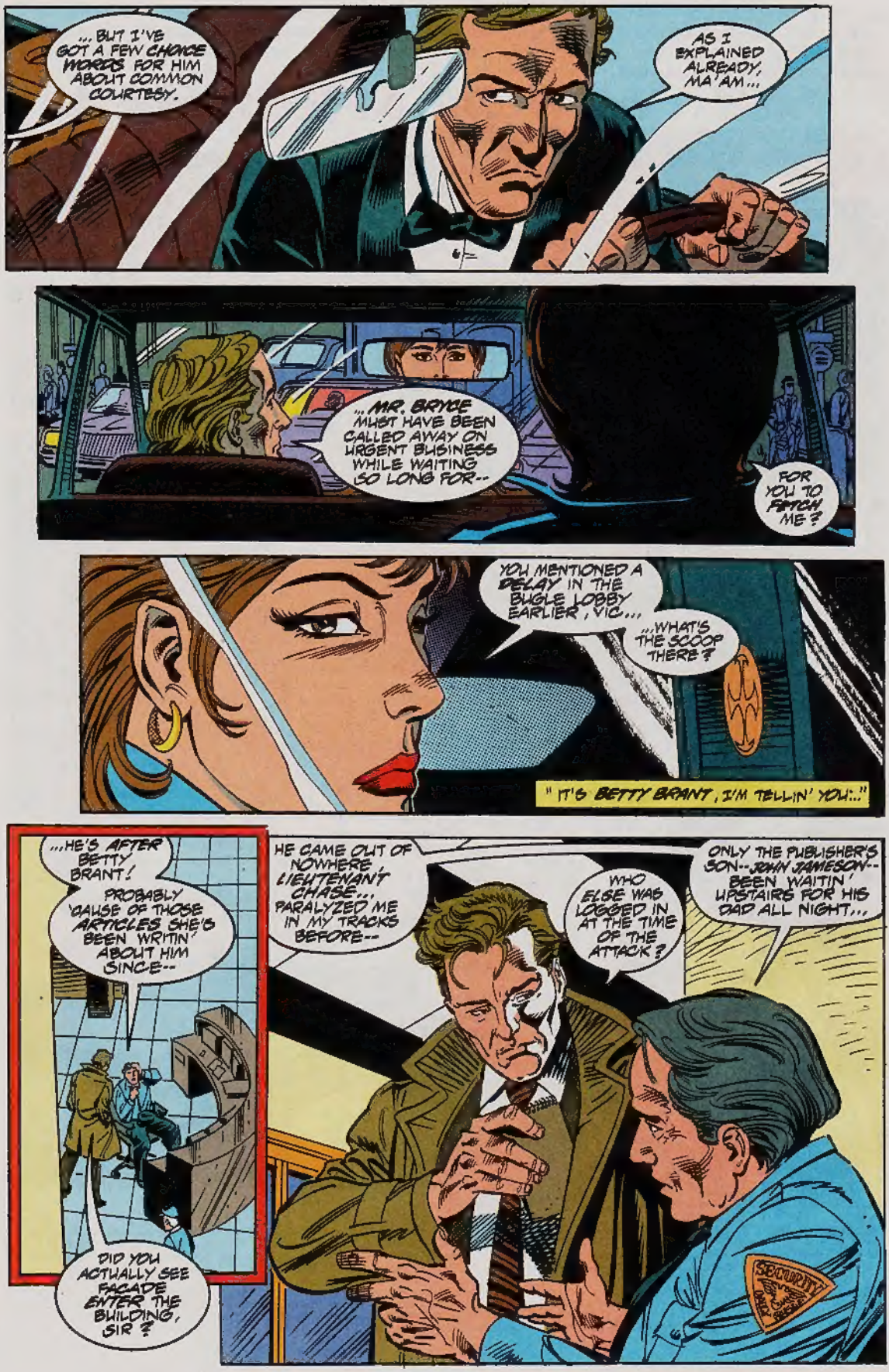
115
AUG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™


THE FACADE BIO-ARMOR LOOMS EMPTY NOW...
...THE CAUSE OF TWO BRUTAL DEATHS.*
TEMPORARILY ABANDONED AFTER FACADE'S SECOND SIEGE ON THE DAILY BUGLE, AND AN UNEXPECTED CONFRONTATION WITH SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF--
--THE COLD METAL KILLING MACHINE STILL WAITS SILENTLY IN A DARK TRUCK, HIDING IN THE VERY SHADOWS OF ITS TARGET.
DAILY BUGLE
THE MAN--THE MURDERER--WITHIN IS LONG GONE ALREADY..
...WHILE HIS INTENDED VICTIM REMAINS DANGEROUSLY UNAWARE OF THE THREAT.
CAN'T FAULT YOUR BOSS FOR LACK OF STYLE, VICTOR...
*SEE WEB#'S 113 AND 114, -- ERIC

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™ Vol. 1, No. 115, August, 1994. (ISSN #0887-9702) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.05 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. Foreign $30.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. WEB OF SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (212) 696-0610. Printed in the U.S.A.**

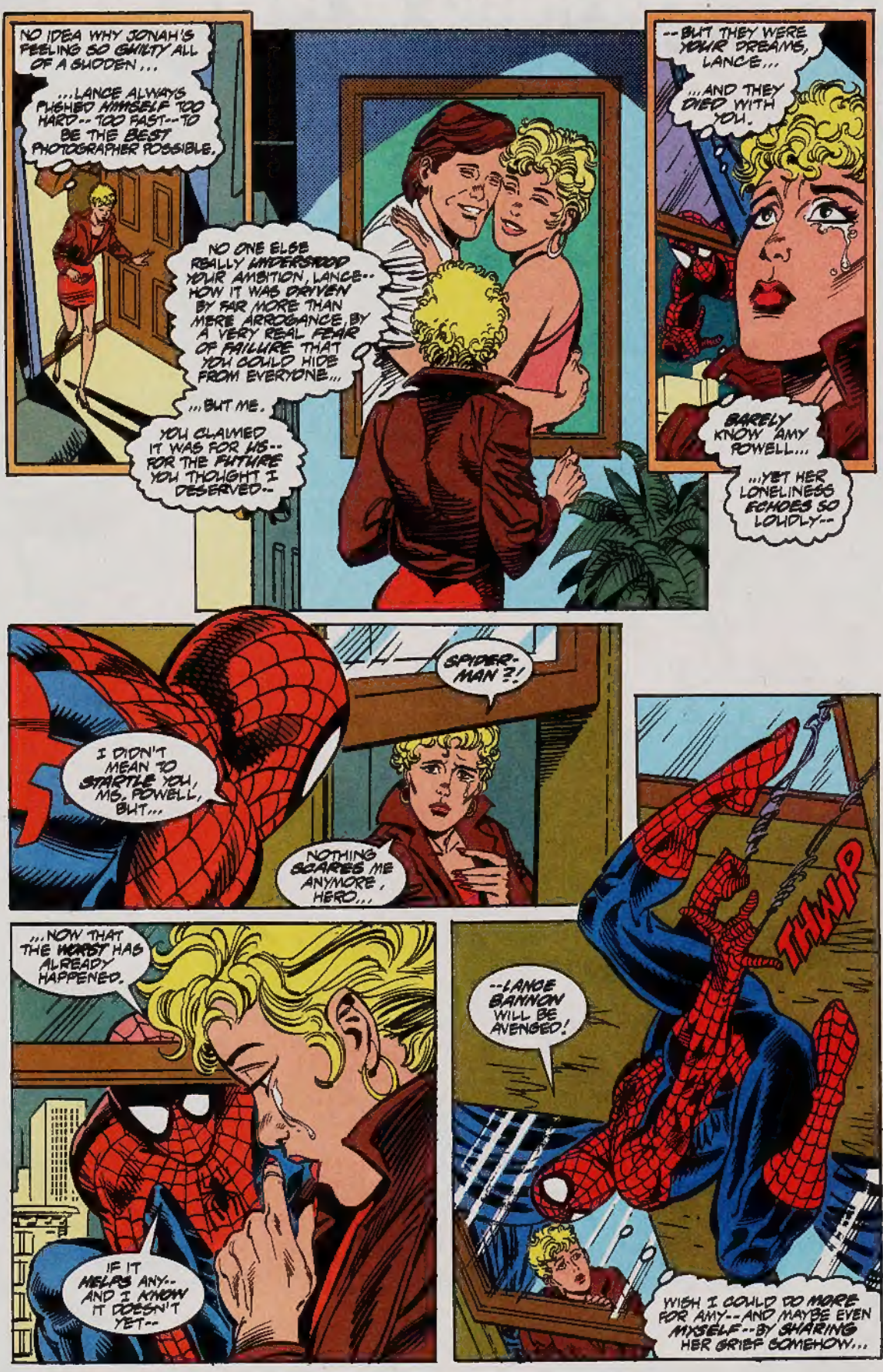

... BUT I'VE GOT A FEW CHOICE WORDS FOR HIM ABOUT COMMON COURTESY.
AS I EXPLAINED ALREADY, MA'AM...
"...MR. BRYCE MUST HAVE BEEN CALLED AWAY ON URGENT BUSINESS WHILE WAITING SO LONG FOR--
FOR YOU TO PITCH ME?
YOU MENTIONED A DELAY IN THE BUGLE LOBBY EARLIER, VIC...
"...WHAT'S THE SCOOP THERE?
"IT'S BETTY BRANT, I'M TELLIN' YOU..."
"...HE'S AFTER BETTY BRANT!
PROBABLY 'CAUSE OF THOSE ARTICLES SHE'S BEEN WRITIN' ABOUT HIM SINCE--
DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE FACADE ENTER THE BUILDING, SIR?
HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE LIEUTENANT CHASE... PARALYZED ME IN MY TRACKS BEFORE--
WHO ELSE WAS LOGGED IN AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK?
ONLY THE PUBLISHER'S SON--JOHN JAMESON--BEEN WAITIN' UPSTAIRS FOR HIS DAD ALL NIGHT...
SECURITY

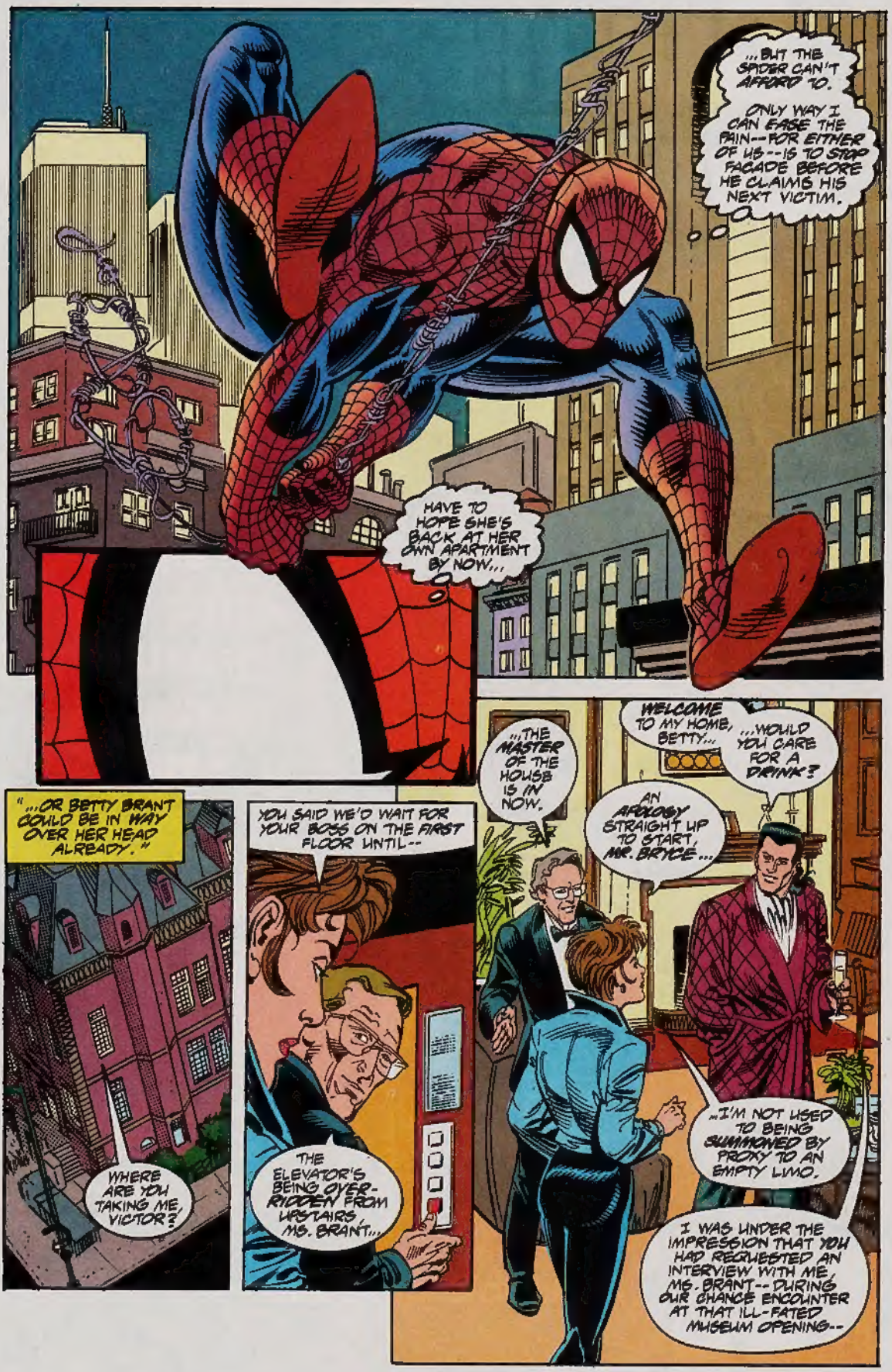
"...AND THAT NEW PHOTOGRAPHER KID, COLE COOPER."
NOBODY ELSE HANGING AROUND HERE ANYMORE...
BUT IF HE REALLY DID CAPTURE FACADE'S IDENTITY ON FILM--AND IF ANY TRACE OF IT SOMEHOW SURVIVED--
--I'VE GOT TO BE THE ONE TO FIND IT.
...LANCE BANNON IS OLD NEWS ALREADY.
"TWO MEN ARE DEAD ALREADY..."
...AND IT'S NOT OVER YET.
I KNOW DAD'S INNOCENT, AT LEAST, BUT TEMPERS RUN WAY TOO HIGH IN THE JAMESON CLAN...
...AND CHASE NEVER DID BUY INTO MY--OUR--INSTANT ALIBI.
THIS FACADE THING IS SPINNING COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL--
--TAKING ON A TWISTED LIFE OF ITS OWN SOMEHOW...

PETER PARKER'S CHILDHOOD HOME IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SHELTER FROM THE DARK WORLD OF SPIDER-MAN...
...A SAFE HAVEN FOR ALL THE PARKERS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
MAY--YOU IN THERE?
ALTHOUGH THIS FAMILY HAS BEEN TESTED TO ITS LIMITS--AND FAR, FAR BEYOND--RECENTLY...
...THEIR ONLY DEFENSE WAS DENIAL.
NONE OF THEM EVER QUESTIONED THE PRECARIOUS STRUCTURE OF THIS LOVING HOME...
...UNTIL A LITTLE TOO LATE.
LIFE HAS A WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH EVERYONE WHEN THEY LEAST EXPECT IT...
...AND MAY PARKER HAD TO LEARN THAT THE HARD WAY.
AUNT MAY...?
BUT MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER HAS JUST BEGUN TO FACE IT...
"...ALONE.
"LANCE BANNON LIVED ALONE IN THAT APARTMENT FOR AS LONG AS HE WORKED AT THE BUGLE..."

...AS LONG AS HE LIVED, FOR ALL I KNOW.
ALMOST SORRY NOW THAT PETER PARKER HAD NO REASON TO VISIT WHILE LANCE WAS STILL ALIVE--
--BUT THE SPIDER NEVER NEEDS AN INVITE!
BEEN LOOKING FOR BETTY--TO WARN HER--SINCE I LOST FACADE...
LIVE AND LET DIE
PART 3
SHELLSHOCKED!
TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK BREAKDOWNS
DON HUDSON FINISHES
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY COLORIST
ERIC FEIN EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP ED.
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

...AND I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT BE HERE, HOPING TO FIND CLUES THE COPS OVER-LOOKED.
SIMPLE BACHELOR PAD--SELF-CONTAINED; NOTHING TOO FRAGILE, TOO RISKY, OR DANGEROUS TO THE TOUCH; LOVED ONES KEPT AT A DISTANCE--
--MAYBE I HAD MORE IN COMMON WITH MY EX-RIVAL THAN I SUSPECTED...
...OR WILL EVER REALLY KNOW NOW.
LANCE'S RECENT ENGAGEMENT TO AMY POWELL IS JUST MORE PROOF THAT TRAGEDY'S INEVITABLE...
...IF YOU LET ANYONE IN TOO CLOSE--!
I APPRECIATE THE HELP CLEANING OUT LANCE'S DESK, MR. JAMESON--AND THE RIDE HERE--
--BUT I'LL NEED SOME TIME ALONE NOW TO PICK OUT A SUIT FOR...
...THE FUNERAL.
PLEASE CALL ME JONAH, MS. POWELL...
...YOU MUST REALIZE I WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO ACT IN THE BOY'S BEST INTERESTS BY BEING SO GRUFF WITH HIM.
I LIKE TO THINK IT HELPED SHAPE HIM INTO THE MAN--
OF COURSE, SIR...
...HE KNEW THAT.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT, AMY...
...MY OWN SON DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME ANYMORE.


NO IDEA WHY JONAH IS FEELING SO GUILTY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...LANCE ALWAYS PUSHED HIMSELF TOO HARD--TOO FAST--TO BE THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHER POSSIBLE.
NO ONE ELSE REALLY UNDERSTOOD YOUR AMBITION, LANCE--HOW IT WAS DRIVEN BY FAR MORE THAN MERE ARROGANCE, BY A VERY REAL FEAR OF FAILURE THAT YOU COULD HIDE FROM EVERYONE...
...BUT ME.
YOU CLAIMED IT WAS FOR US--FOR THE FUTURE YOU THOUGHT I DESERVED--
--BUT THEY WERE YOUR DREAMS, LANCE...
...AND THEY DIED WITH YOU.
BARELY KNOW AMY POWELL...
...YET HER LONELINESS ECHOES SO LOUDLY--
SPIDER-MAN?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU, MS. POWELL, BUT...
NOTHING SCARES ME ANYMORE, HERO...
THWIP
...NOW THAT THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED.
IF IT HELPS ANY--AND I KNOW IT DOESN'T YET--
--LANCE BANNON WILL BE AVENGED!
WISH I COULD DO MORE FOR AMY--AND MAYBE EVEN MYSELF--BY SHARING HER GRIEF SOMEHOW...

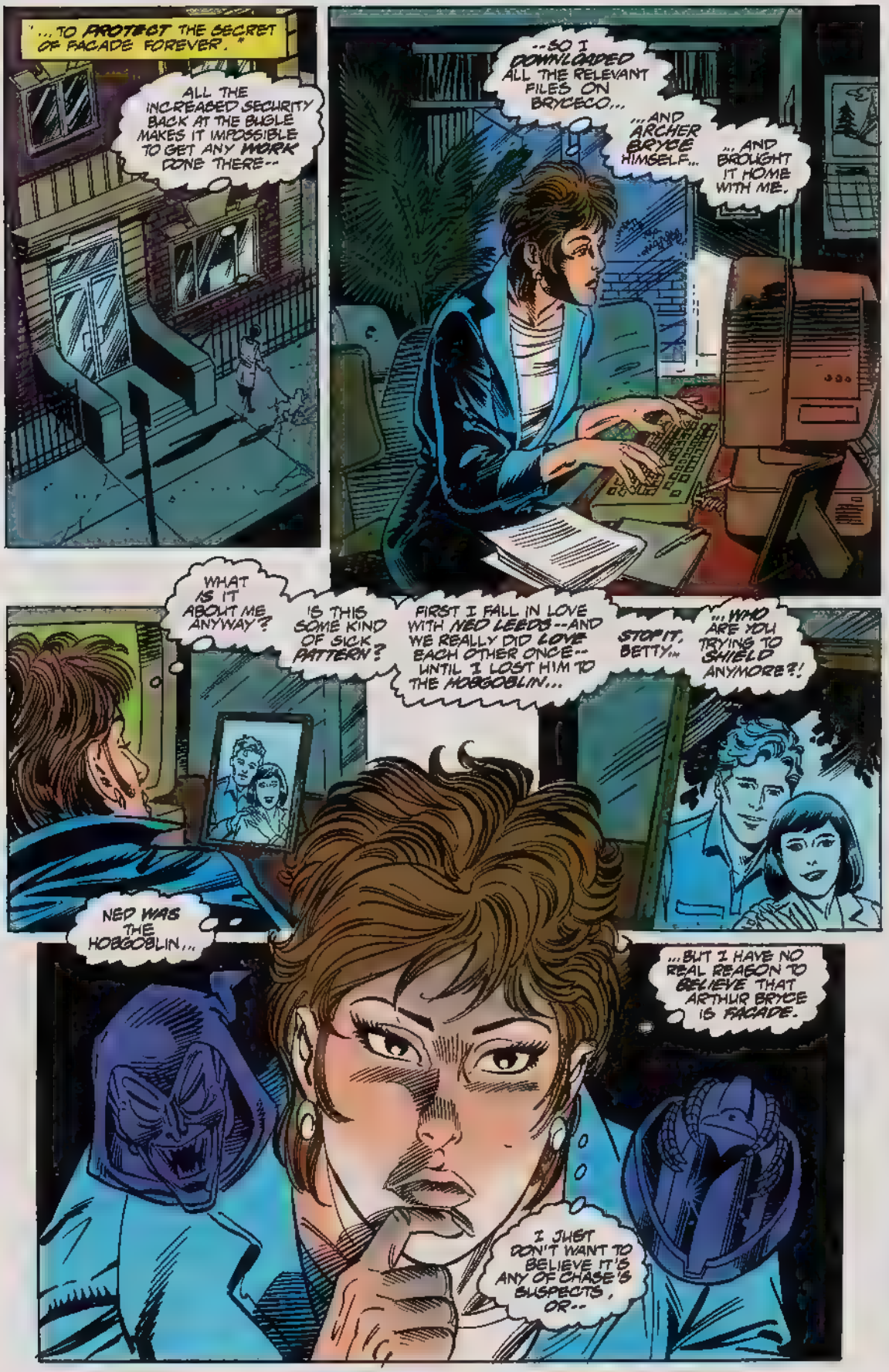

...BUT THE SPIDER CAN'T AFFORD TO.
ONLY WAY I CAN EASE THE PAIN--FOR EITHER OF US--IS TO STOP FACADE BEFORE HE CLAIMS HIS NEXT VICTIM.
HAVE TO HOPE SHE'S BACK AT HER OWN APARTMENT BY NOW...
"...OR BETTY BRANT COULD BE IN WAY OVER HER HEAD ALREADY."
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, VICTOR?
YOU SAID WE'D WAIT FOR YOUR BOSS ON THE FIRST FLOOR UNTIL--
THE ELEVATOR'S BEING OVER-RIDDEN FROM UPSTAIRS, MS. BRANT...
...THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE IS IN NOW.
WELCOME TO MY HOME, BETTY...
...WOULD YOU CARE FOR A DRINK?
AN APOLOGY STRAIGHT UP TO START, MR. BRYCE...
...I'M NOT USED TO BEING SUMMONED BY PROXY TO AN EMPTY LIMO.
I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU HAD REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH ME, MS. BRANT--DURING OUR CHANCE ENCOUNTER AT THAT ILL-FATED MUSEUM OPENING--

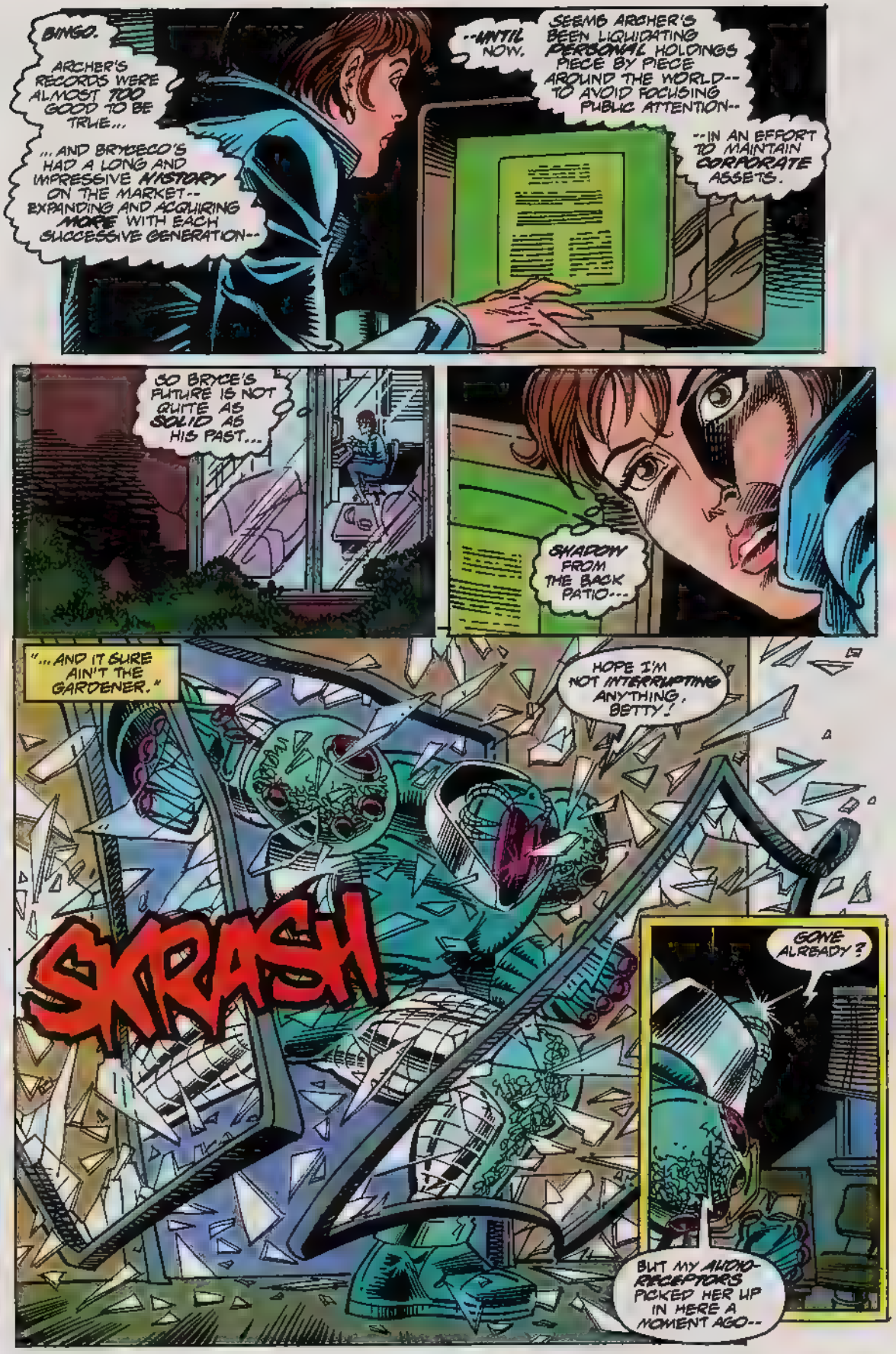
--AND I AM NOT ONE TO WAIT.
TOUCHE...
...ALTHOUGH THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
EXCELLENT, MADAM...
...I HOPE TO CONTINUE SURPRISING YOU.
THAT DEFINITELY WON'T BE A PROBLEM... ARCHER--
--IF YOU REALLY PLAN TO OPEN UP TO THE PRESS ABOUT BRYCECO'S INTERESTS IN THE E.A.C.A.D.E. BIO-ARMOR.
--BUT IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST.
I INTEND TO SHARE MANY, MANY THINGS WITH YOU--AND YOU ALONE, BETTY--
ESPECIALLY YOUR FASCINATING INVESTIGATION INTO THIS FACADE KILLER...

ONLY A COMMUTER BRIDGE AWAY...
...THE PARKER RESIDENCE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.
RING
RING
HELLO, PETER--?
HELLO...?
IS ANYONE THERE...?
PETER PLEASE--
"EXCUSE ME, M-MISS..."

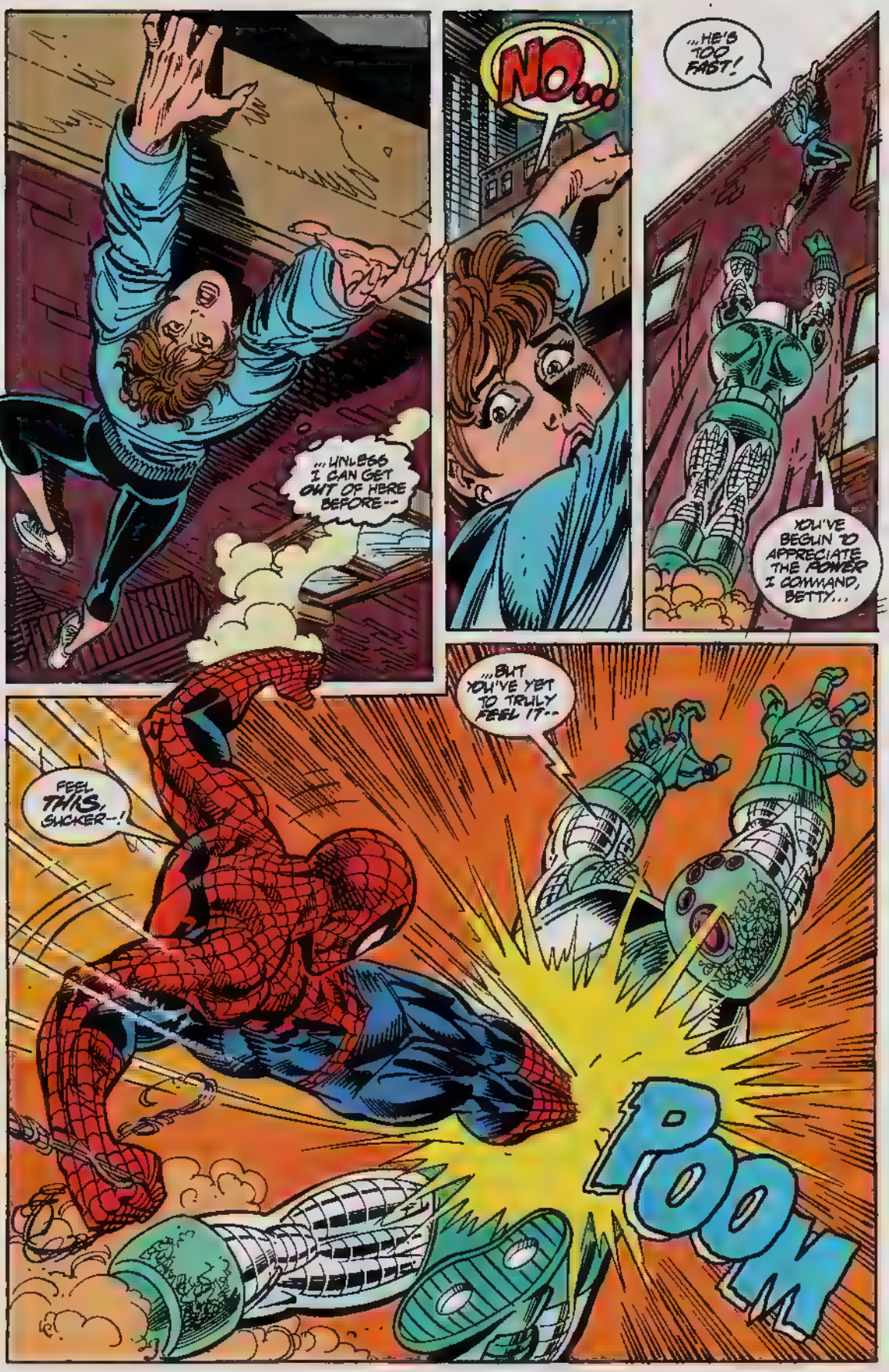
...I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LONG-DISTANCE CONNECTION.
I'M... AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY'S WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO REACH MAY PARKER--
"I'M SO SORRY..."
...BUT I'M WAITING FOR A CALL FROM MY HUSBAND, SO I NEED TO FREE UP THE PHONE
YOU'LL HAVE TO CONTACT FOREST HILLS HOSPITAL...
"...FOR THE DETAILS--"
NO!
SKRUNCH!
NOT MAY...
...NOT MAY!
WHO IS THIS MAN? WHERE IS HE HEADING? FOR THE NEXT TANTALIZING CLUE, CHECK OUT SPIDER-MAN #49, ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS

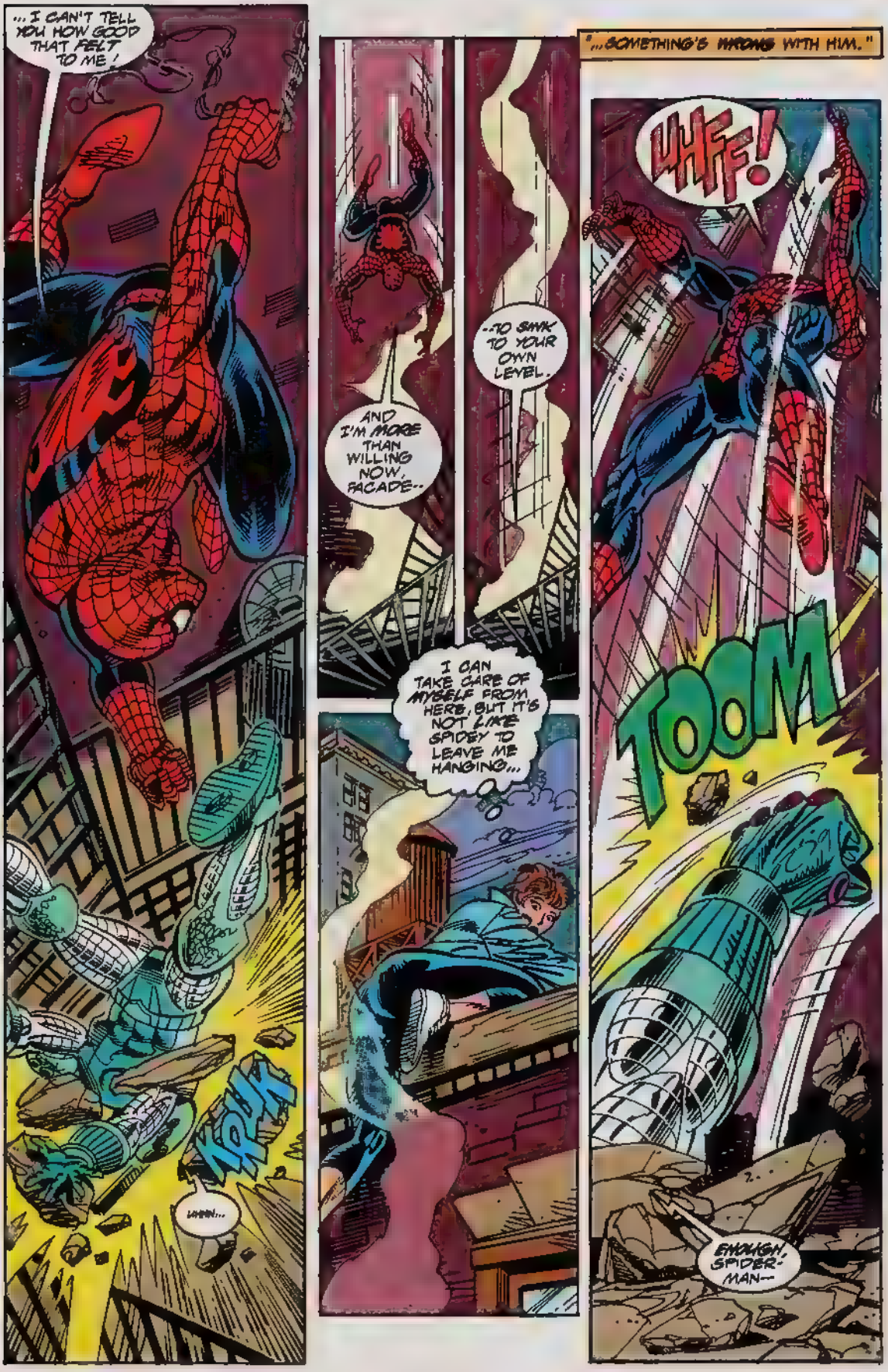
MEANWHILE.
Restaurant
STK
STROOM
COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO GET BACK INTO THE BIO-ARMOR-- TO FEEL THIS POWER PULSING THROUGH ME AGAIN--
--AND I'M MORE THAN READY TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES NOW...

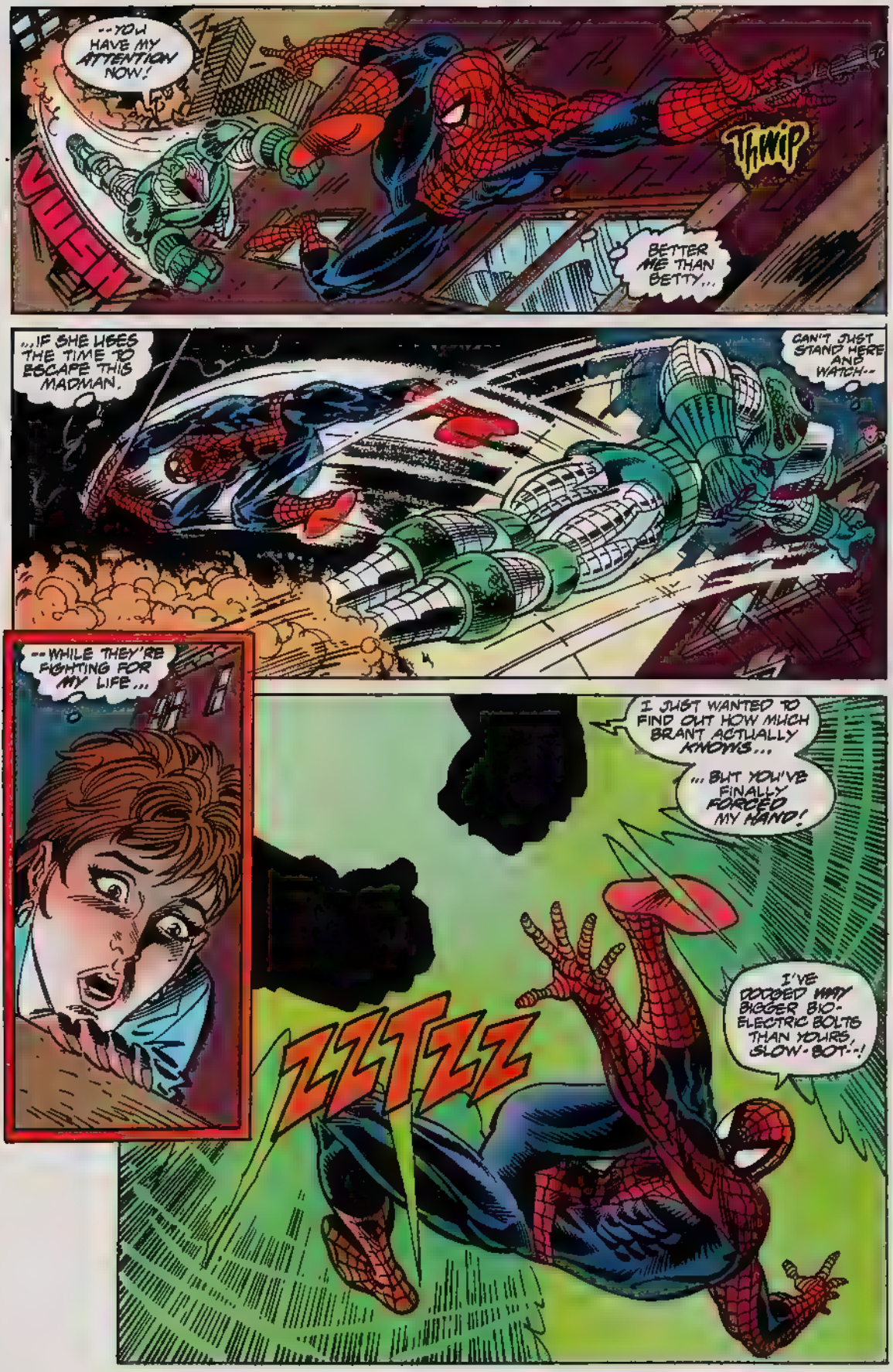

"...TO PROTECT THE SECRET OF FACADE FOREVER."
ALL THE INCREASED SECURITY BACK AT THE BUGLE MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ANY WORK DONE THERE--
--SO I DOWNLOADED ALL THE RELEVANT FILES ON BRYCECO...
...AND ARCHER BRYCE HIMSELF...
...AND BROUGHT IT HOME WITH ME.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME ANYWAY?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF SICK PATTERN?
FIRST I FALL IN LOVE WITH NED LEEDS--AND WE REALLY DID LOVE EACH OTHER ONCE--UNTIL I LOST HIM TO THE HOBGOBLIN...
STOP IT, BETTY...
...WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO SHIELD ANYMORE?!
NED WAS THE HOBGOBLIN...
...BUT I HAVE NO REAL REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ARTHUR BRYCE IS FACADE.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT'S ANY OF CHASE'S SUSPECTS, OR--

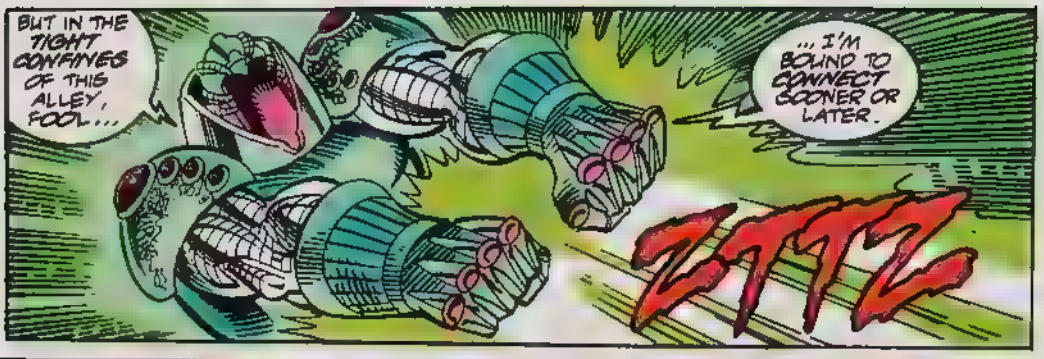

BINGO.
ARCHER'S RECORDS WERE ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...
...AND BRYCECO'S HAD A LONG AND IMPRESSIVE HISTORY ON THE MARKET--EXPANDING AND ACQUIRING MORE WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE GENERATION--
--UNTIL NOW.
SEEMS ARCHER'S BEEN LIQUIDATING PERSONAL HOLDINGS PIECE BY PIECE AROUND THE WORLD--TO AVOID FOCUSING PUBLIC ATTENTION--
--IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CORPORATE ASSETS.
SO BRYCE'S FUTURE IS NOT QUITE AS SOLID AS HIS PAST...
SHADOW FROM THE BACK PATIO...
"...AND IT SURE AIN'T THE GARDENER."
HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING, BETTY!
SKRASH
GONE ALREADY?
BUT MY AUDIO-RECEPTORS PICKED HER UP IN HERE A MOMENT AGO--

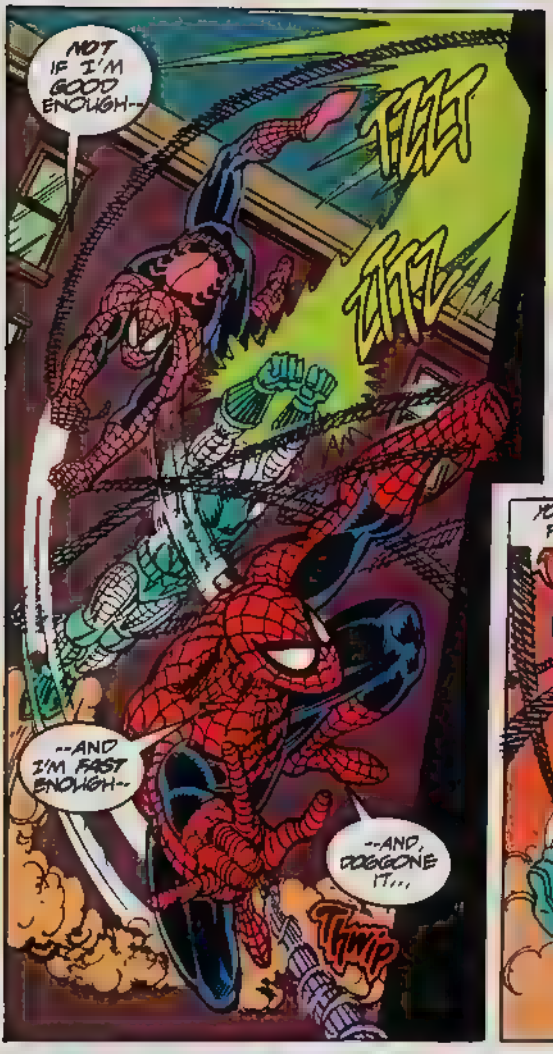
"-- SO SHE CAN'T BE FAR AHEAD!"
ALLEY'S A DEAD END IN ALL DIRECTIONS...
KROOM
...WITH NO WAY OUT BUT STRAIGHT UP.
YOU'RE WASTING PRECIOUS TIME, BETTY...
SKRAK!
...I JUST WANT TO TALK!
TALK ME TO DEATH IS MORE LIKE IT.


...UNLESS I CAN GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
NO...
...HE'S TOO FAST!
YOU'VE BEGUN TO APPRECIATE THE POWER I COMMAND, BETTY...
...BUT YOU'VE YET TO TRULY FEEL IT--
FEEL THIS, SUCKER--!
POOM


...I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW GOOD THAT FELT TO ME!
KRUK
UHHH...
AND I'M MORE THAN WILLING NOW, FACADE--
--TO SINK TO YOUR OWN LEVEL.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF FROM HERE, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE SPIDEY TO LEAVE ME HANGING...
"...SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM."
UHFF!
TOOM
ENOUGH, SPIDER-MAN--

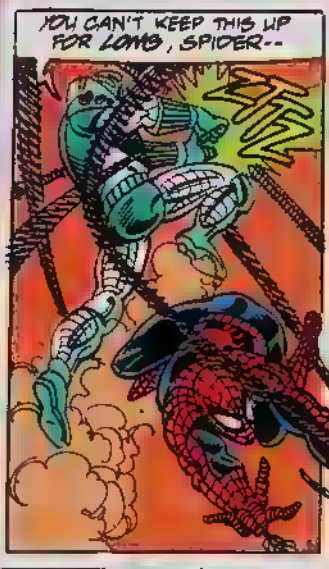

--YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION NOW!
VWOSH
THWIP
BETTER ME THAN BETTY...
...IF SHE USES THE TIME TO ESCAPE THIS MADMAN.
CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND WATCH--
--WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE...
I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH BRANT ACTUALLY KNOWS...
...BUT YOU'VE FINALLY FORCED MY HAND!
I'VE DODGED MANY BIGGER BIO-ELECTRIC BOLTS THAN YOURS, SLOW-BOT--!
ZZTZZ


BUT IN THE TIGHT CONFINES OF THIS ALLEY, FOOL...
...I'M BOUND TO CONNECT SOONER OR LATER.
ZTTZ

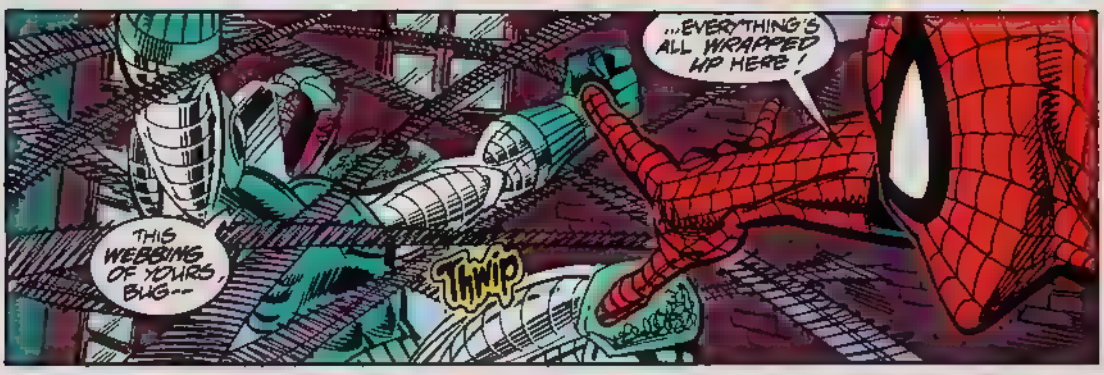

NOT IF I'M GOOD ENOUGH--
TZZT
ZTTZ
--AND I'M FAST ENOUGH--
--AND, DOGGONE IT...
THWIP

...SOME PEOPLE LIKE ME, AT LEAST.
ZTTZ

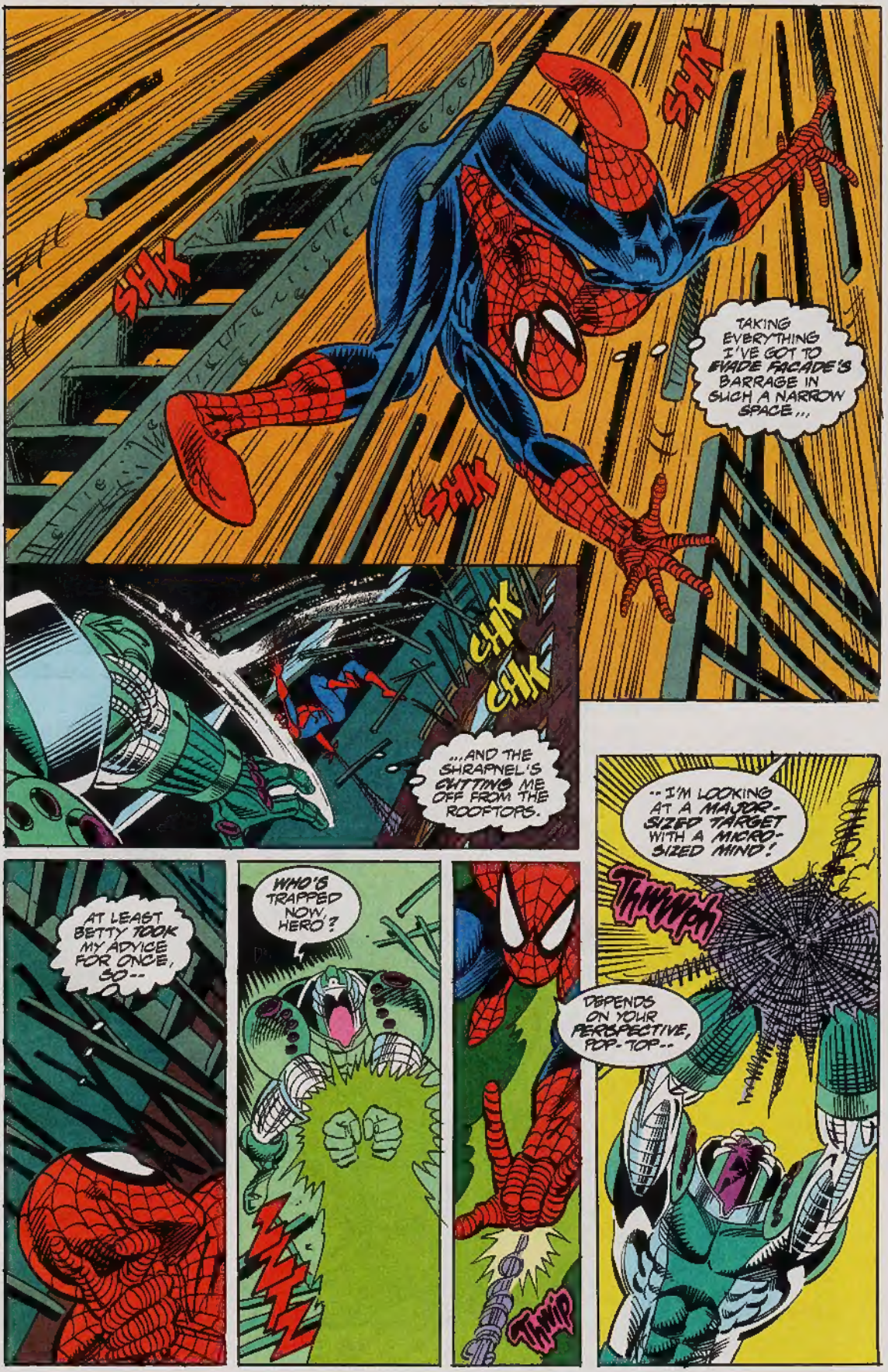
TZZT
MAYBE "LIKE" IS TOO STRONG A WORD.

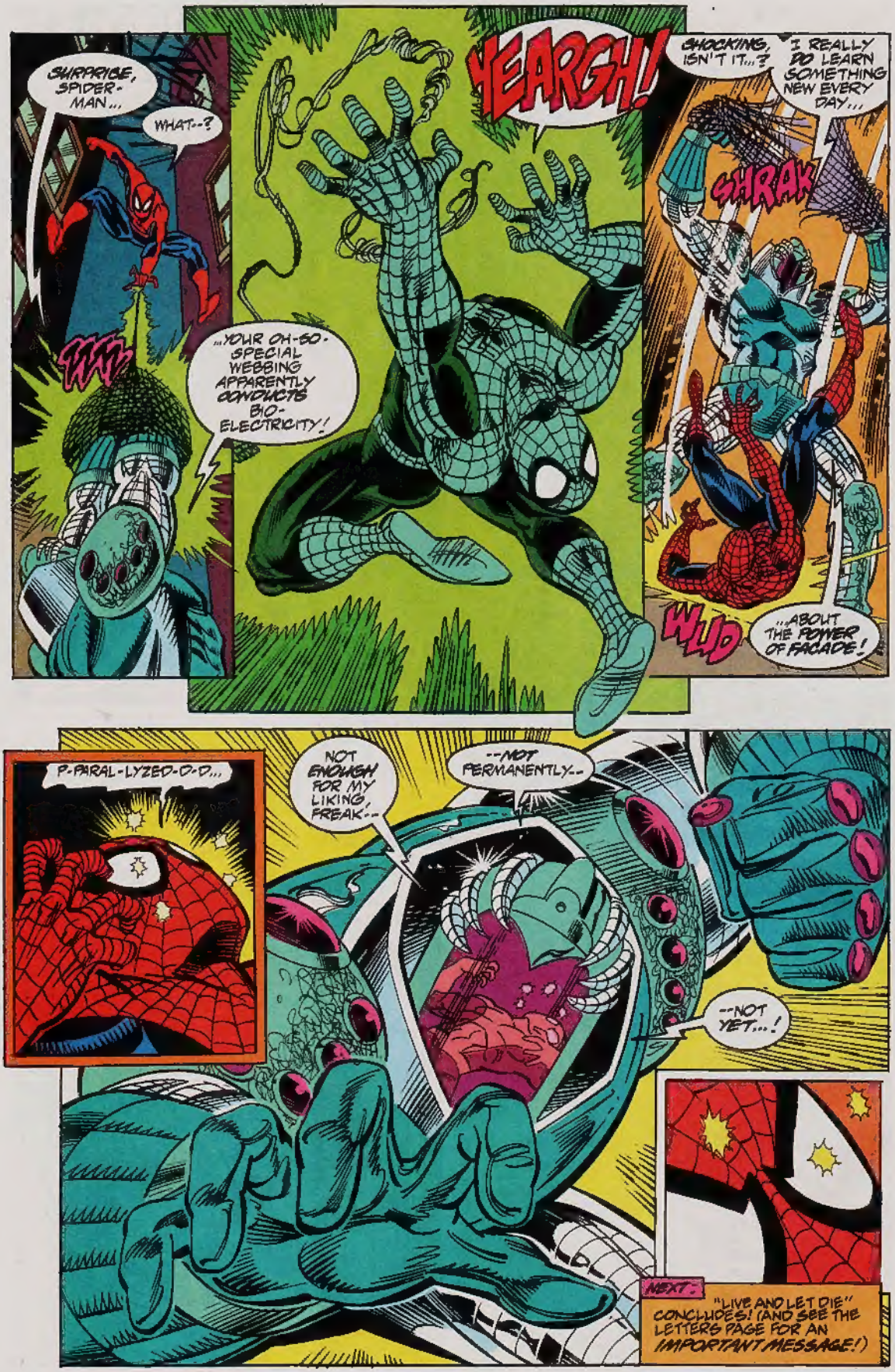

YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOR LONG, SPIDER--
ZTZ

DON'T HAVE TO ANYMORE, KILLER...


...EVERYTHING'S ALL WRAPPED UP HERE!
THIS WEBBING OF YOURS, BUG--
THWIP

-- IS LITTLE MORE THAN RIBBON TO ME!
SHRRK
NOT A GOOD SIGN AT ALL...
...AND MY SPIDER-SENSE IS BARELY KEEPING ME A STEP AHEAD OF--
BETTY?!
GO ALREADY, LADY..
TEK
"...GET OUT OF HERE FAST!"
VWSH
TOO LATE, PEST--
SHK
SHK
SHK
--I'LL HAVE YOU BOTH NOW!


SHK
SHK
SHK
TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO EVADE FACADE'S BARRAGE IN SUCH A NARROW SPACE...
CHK CHK
...AND THE SHRAPNEL'S CUTTING ME OFF FROM THE ROOFTOPS.
AT LEAST BETTY TOOK MY ADVICE FOR ONCE, SO--
WHO'S TRAPPED NOW, HERO?
ZZZ
THWIP
--I'M LOOKING AT A MAJOR-SIZED TARGET WITH A MICRO-SIZED MIND!
THWIP
DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE, POP-TOP--


SURPRISE, SPIDER-MAN...
WHAT--?
YEARGH!
...YOUR OH-SO-SPECIAL WEBBING APPARENTLY CONDUCTS BIO-ELECTRICITY!
SHOCKING, ISN'T IT...?
I REALLY DO LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY...
SHRAK
WHUD
...ABOUT THE POWER OF FACADE!
P-PARAL-LYZED-O-O...
NOT ENOUGH FOR MY LIKING, FREAK--
--NOT PERMANENTLY--
--NOT YET...!
NEXT: "LIVE AND LET DIE" CONCLUDES! (AND SEE THE LETTERS PAGE FOR AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE!)

WEB-ZINGERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ERIC FEIN
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

ATTENTION, SPIDER-FANS!

As you may have noticed by now, there's been a mysterious figure showing up in these pages, gradually moving closer and closer to Spidey's life. Who is he? What does he want? And how will his inevitable confrontation with Spider-Man change the wall-crawler's life forever? This mystery is weaving its way through all four of the Spider-Man titles, and if you haven't been picking them all up, then you're not getting the full story! Follow this stranger's appearances in order in these titles:

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #114
SPIDER-MAN #48
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #115
SPIDER-MAN #49
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #215
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #116
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #393
SPIDER-MAN #50
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #216

These appearances by the mystery man will climax in the shocking ending to SPEC #216, and lead directly into the major storyline that starts in WEB #117.

In that issue, we begin the roller coaster ride to the landmark 400th issue of AMAZING with "Power and Responsibility," the all-Spider-title crossover that introduces a major new villain to the mythos, and shakes up the status quo of all of Spidey's books! Don't miss out on the storyline that we *guarantee* will have fandom talking for years to come!

Dear Web-Zingers,

Re: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #108: The back-up story featuring Cardiac and the Scorpion was excellent. I was wondering what had happened to Scorpy after ASM #370. Hopefully, panel seven on page twenty-nine doesn't mean you've killed him off. Scorpion has a lot of untapped potential as a super-villain. Meanwhile, Cardiac seems to have moved from vigilante/villain to vigilante/hero. He's no longer fighting Spidey, he's fighting Spidey's old enemies. Please keep the back-ups coming. In the future, let's see the Prowler, Solo, and the Black Cat.

Out of all the Spidey books, WEB has the best subplots. Keep Betty Brant and Maria Madison around for the long haul, and maybe you could borrow Liz Osborn from SPECTACULAR. I always enjoy seeing Mary Jane, but these other women have more to worry about than just smoking.

J. Katz
662 Bobwhite Lane
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

While there are no more back-up features in WEB's foreseeable future, J., you'll be seeing all the characters you requested in their very own limited series this year! That should fit the bill nicely, no?

Scorpion is very much alive and kicking (and punching and hitting and stinging...) in the pages of the recent SHROUD limited series, and in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #215 and #216.

As for the supporting cast, stay tuned, as they say... things are going to get even more interesting. (And, hey, just because Cardiac's fought a villain or two doesn't by any means make him a hero!)

Dear WEB-Weavers,

After reading the first ten pages of WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #109, I really wasn't too excited. I thought, "Oh, no, not another one of these action-oriented comic books where Spidey gives his cute one-liners and battles the villain of the week."

But the ending was anything but typical. It actually left me very touched. I felt sympathy for the Shocker, and didn't want to see him die. I thought it was great the way Spider-man wanted to help him, even though the Shocker was his long-time foe.

Guest writer Joey Cavalieri must be commended for turning a normally cardboard villain into a sympathetic figure. Yes, villains are not all 'bad' and heroes are not all 'good.' There are many grey areas. I'm glad that Marvel is starting to show the many different sides to all of their characters. Keep up the great work!

Jason Strangis
Minnetonka, MN 55305

We're glad you enjoyed the story, Jason, but we're kind of disappointed that you thought we were going to give you a no-brained action tale! This is WEB OF SPIDER-MAN! It's the characters that matter! What are you trying to do, tarnish our (ahem) image?

Dear Webheads,

I see in recent issues that Peter is realizing that doing the thing expected of you isn't always the best solution. I hope to see him a little more relentless in taking down his enemies. He's ten times as formidable as any villain he's faced, and he needs to come down on his enemies hard and fast. A show-no-mercy attitude. If this should ever happen (as rumor has it), I'd like to see him fight Carnage to the death!

Also, it's just one reader's opinion, but if Spidey ever decides to take on a partner again, I vote on the Black Cat. She's a woman who's willing to get her hands dirty to get the job done.

Oh, and one question: Is there any chance of someone telling us whose hand pushed Peter onto the subway tracks way back in WEB #18? It didn't trigger his Spider-sense!

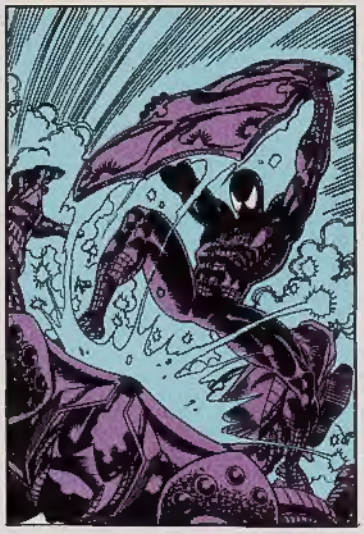
Pompeo Balbo
(Address withheld by request)

If you wanted a relentless, take no prisoners Spider-Man, you must have really dug "Pursuit!" That story was just the beginning of the radical changes coming up in Spidey's life -- but don't necessarily believe the rumors. Whatever we put poor Peter through he will never be the Punisher or Wolverine.

The Black Cat is doing quite all right on her own, in her four-issue limited series, on sale now! Spidey makes an appearance in the premiere issue, so don't miss it!

Will we tell you whose hand that was in issue #18? Most definitely!! In fact, if you read AMAZING #388, you should already know! (And the fact that the mystery shover didn't trigger Peter's spider-sense was your biggest clue!)

NEXT ISSUE: The thrill-a-second conclusion to "Live and Let Die!" Wait'll you see what Facade puts Spidey through! Plus: another appearance by the mysterious figure. *Who* is he -- and *what* does he want from the Parkers?!



BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Last month I tipped you off to the fact that you'll be seeing a new Spider-Man animated series every Saturday on the fabulous Fox Network starting this fall, a series that'll give our wildly successful X-Men thrillers a run for their money!

Now, in answer to countless requests (from Sam Countless, our pizza man), I'd like to tell you a little more about our upcoming Spidey spectaculars, just to whet your appetite for the greatest in cartoon entertainment.

The way we begin each spectacular show is by searching through our vast files of Spider-Man masterpieces in order to find the greatest wall-crawling epics of all. However, not only are the stories themselves important, but each and every animated episode has to feature one or more of Spidey's deadliest and most diabolical super-foes. For example, featured in our brand-new series you'll see such mighty masters of menace as The Scorpion, Venom, Kraven The Hunter, The Kingpin, Doc Ock, The Hobgoblin — and those are just some of the sinister, stupefying scoundrels in store for you!

Having selected our stories, we then decide how best to convert them into animated screenplays, keeping all the great stuff from the comics, while adding the awesome action and spine-tingling special effects that have already made Marvel Films one of the most admired names in Hollywood.

Speaking of special effects, just wait till you see our computer enhanced scenes of spidey web-swinging, wall-crawling and battling the bad guys all over and around the dizzying New York skyline. Everything is so realistic, so breath-takingly three-dimensional that you'll forget it's a cartoon after the first few seconds!

In case you've been wondering, the reason we were able to attract the very best artists, screenwriters and animators to our studio is simple — almost everyone in the cartoon business is a Marvel fan! So, when the word leaked out that we were planning an animated Spider-Man TV series, the stampede began!

By now, due to these subtle hints I keep dropping, you may be starting to suspect that I'm mildly excited about the upcoming Spider-Man series. When you see it this fall, O True Believer, you're gonna know why!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

NEWSLINE

ITEM! It was the mutant wedding of the year! No, we're not talking about the union of Cyclops and Phoenix — this mega-event was even bigger! This past January 8, mutant executive editor **Bob Harras** finally walked down the aisle with his own Marvel Girl, the former **Anne Stavola**. It took five years of dating before the procrastinating Bob finally popped the question; as he tells it, "that also explains why my books are always late!" The young lovers honeymooned in Paris, and Bob notes that unlike Scott Summers and Jean Grey, "we didn't travel through time!" Anne works as the East Coast Publicist Manager for Universal Pictures, which means she won't be working on the upcoming X-Men live-action movie from Fox! For the record, Bob noted that the new Mrs. Harras "is not an X-Man fan, and does not have any mutant powers!"

ITEM! Frank Castle sure gets around! This month, he's all over the place — from the mean streets of Manhattan to the old west to Gotham City to Riverdale! No, your eyes are not deceiving you, Marveloid — we did say Gotham City and Riverdale! First we have a one-shot called PUNISHER A MAN CALLED FRANK, a rollicking wild west adventure in which we see what Frank's life might have been like if he had become the Punisher in 1910! Editor **Don Daley** said, "If you loved *Unforgiven*, the Sergio Leone spaghetti westerns, and *Death Wish*, you'll love **Chuck Dixon** and **John Buscema**'s A MAN CALLED FRANK!"

Next up we have PUNISHER MEETS ARCHIE: WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE — perhaps the most offbeat team-up of all! Editor Don Daley feels this team-up is a natural, since" Archie lives in the 'perfect' world that the Punisher lost." And that world is ... Riverdale! Don noted that Frank n' Archie have a lot in common — "Both star in monthly four-color comics that are stapled!" Story and art for this one is by the team of **Batton Lash**, **John Buscema**, **Stan Goldberg**, and **Tom Palmer**.

Last, and certainly not least, we have the long-awaited first meeting of comicdom's two greatest vigilantes in BATMAN/PUNISHER: LAKE OF FIRE! This one is put together by our friends at DC Comics, and the line-up of talent includes writer **Dennis O'Neil** and artists **Barry Kitson** and **James Pascoe**. When the Punisher's arch-foe, Jigsaw, heads to Gotham City with hopes of becoming its newest crime boss, Frank Castle pursues him — and winds up going head to head against none other than the Azrael Batman! One of Batman's deadliest (and craziest) enemies appears in this one, as well! Observed Don Daley: "When people speak of Batman and the Punisher, they usually stress the similarities. In the deeply talented hands of Denny O'Neil, I'm aware for the first time of the subtle differences between these two vigilante icons!"

HYPE BOX

The Marvel Music line kicks off this month with the release of ALICE COOPER: THE LAST TEMPTATION OF ALICE, the first in a three-issue limited series! The limited series is tied in to the release of Alice's new album of the same name, and both feature the input of writer **Neil Gaiman** and **Alice** himself! The art for LAST TEMPTATION is provided by **Michael Zulli**, with a painted cover by **Dave McKean**! Editor **Mort Todd** described Alice's comeback comic as "an arcane gothic coming of age tale — with lots of zombies!"

NOW ON SALE

- **ADVENTURES OF CYCLOPS & PHOENIX #4:** The honeymoon is over! By Lobdell/Ha/Vey!
- **ALICE COOPER: LAST TEMPTATION OF ALICE #1 OF 3:** Alice meets the sinister Showman! By Gaiman/Zulli!
- **ANNEX #1:** Brace yourselves for the deadly cyborg, Brace! By Harris/McDaniel/Banning!
- **BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD GREATEST HITS TPB:** Stories that don't suck! By Lackey/Parker!
- **CABLE #14:** Cable faces D'Spayre in the Everglades! By Herdling/Skroca/Sellers!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #430: Americop** vs. **Damon Dran** — with Cap caught in the middle! By Gruenwald/Hoover/Bulanadi!
- **CONAN SAGA #89:** Conan faces the incredible **Hawk-Riders!** By Thomas/Buscema/Chan!
- **DAREDEVIL #331: Strucker & HYDRA** hitch a ride on the Information Highway! By Chichester/McDaniel/Collazo!
- **DARKHAWK #42:** Chris reveals his true identity to his parents! A shocker! By Fingeroth/Smith/Akin!
- **FORCE WORKS #2: Iron Man** and **Century** are forced to work in the future! By Abnett & Lanning/Tenney/Garcia!
- **GROO THE WANDERER #115:** Any fool can plainly read Groo! By Evanier/Aragones!
- **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #4:** Pull up the anchor — it's the return of **Rancor!** By Gallagher & Hall/ West/Montanol
- **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #160:** The first solo adventure of **Mace!**
- **NAMOR #53:** Meet the son of Namor! He's a pointy-eared nightmare! By Herdling/Isherwood!
- **REN & STIMPY #21:** Commander Hoek & Cadet Stimpy on the planet of Space Beavers! By Dutter/Kazaleh!
- **SPIDER-MAN 2099 #22: Meet Ventura!** She's an ace — but she's no pet detective! By David/Leonardi/Williamson!
- **UNCANNY X-MEN #315: Colossus** plots his escape from Avalon! By Lobdell/Madureira/Green!
- **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #115:** Who's been tailing **Aunt May?** By Kavanagh/Saviuk/Baskerville!

SNEAK PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S BOOKS: PETER PARKER NO MORE!!? ... THE PUNISHER MEETS ARCHIE ANDREWS ... BLACKWULF VS. SCORCH ... DEADPOOL #2? ... ALPHA FLIGHT APPEARS IN WOLVERINE — SPOTLIGHT ON THE ABOMINATION IN HULK ANNUAL #20 ... YONDU RETURNS TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ...

BACK IN HIS OWN LIMITED SERIES ... *WAR MACHINE* VS. DEATHTOLL ... MAN-EATER GOES WILD IN *SILVER SABLE* #27